



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Shawn P. McAllister, et al.

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SUPPORTING CONNECTION  
TYPE PARTITIONING IN A COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

App. No.: 09/293,297

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Group Art Unit: 2663

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Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office action of December 27, 2004, Applicant submits the following response:

**IN THE CLAIMS**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2 further comprises:~~ A method for communicating link connection type characteristics in a network, comprising:  
determining connection type characteristics for a link within the network, wherein the connection type characteristics comprise partitioning of available bandwidth of the link between switched virtual connections and soft permanent virtual connections;  
advertising the connection type characteristics to at least one node in the network;

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